

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

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R 121236Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO USINFO WASHDC

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UNCLAS TANANARIVE 1143

FOR: IAA, IPS AND IBS

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: TANANARIVE'S JULY 4 BICENTENNIAL RECEPTION

1. OVER 350 MALAGASY GOVERNMENT AND MILITARY OFFICIALS, MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES AND BUSINESS PEOPLE, AS WELL AS MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS, JOINED IN THE JULY 4 BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS HELD AT THE RESIDENCE. THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES HOSTED THE FUNCTION, AND THE MALAGASY GOVERNMENT WAS REPRESENTED BY COMMANDANT JAOTOMBO, A MEMBER OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL OF THE REVOLUTION. ALSO ON HAND WAS THE ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER.

2. THE CHARGE LACED HIS BICENTENNIAL MESSAGE WITH MALAGASY PROVERBS, WHILE DESCRIBING THE PHILOSOPHY UNDERLYING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE U.S. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT EACH GOVERNMENT HAS SELECTED ITS OWN WAY OF LIFE. IN CONCLUSION, HE SAID THAT THE U.S. APPRECIATED MADAGASY EFFORTS TO ARRIVE AT "A TRUE LIBERTY AND TO AFFIRM THEIR NATIONAL IDENTIFY" AND ASSURED U.S. FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION.

3. IN RESPONSE THE COMMANDANT SAID EACH SOVEREIGN COUNTRY CHOOSES WAYS AND MEANS TO ESTABLISH A LIBERTY CONFORMING TO ITS POLITICAL IDEOLOGY. HE CONTINUED: "IDEOLOGICAL OR POLITICAL DIFFERENCES NOTWITHSTANDING, WE HOWEVER NOTE THAT THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA STRIVES TO EXTEND ITS AID TO ALL PEOPLES IN THE WORLD, EVEN THOUGH THIS SOLIDARITY IS PROPORTIONALLY DISTRIBUTED ACCORDING TO THE IDEOLOGICAL

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GICAL AND POLITICAL AFFINITIES BETWEEN THE DONOR AND

BENEFICIARY COUNTRIES. LET US NOTE THAT MADAGASCAR IS AMONG THE COUNTRIES WHO RECEIVE AMERICAN AID, WHETHER FROM STATE ORGANIZATIONS, SUCH AS AID, OR PHILANTHROPIC WORKS, SUCH AS THE CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICE."

4. THE COMMANDANT CONCLUDED THAT GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES SHOULD IMPROVE AS LONG AS THEY ARE MAINTAINED IN THE SPIRIT OF NON-INTERFERENCE AND MUTUAL RESPECT.

5. FOR THE OCCASION, THE RESIDENCE WAS DECORATED WITH PARTS OF THE PAPER DISPLAY "LIFE, LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS." THE MALAGASY "BICENTENNIAL CHOIR" (REPORTED IN TANANARIVE 1039) SANG SELECTIONS OF AMERICAN FOLKSONGS.

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